

against the sample. The area surrounding the window area is not transparent and may be adapted for recording information about the sample. A grid may also be provided within the window area to enhance viewing and analysis of the sample affixed within the window. Upon attachment of one or more of the test tapes to the slide, the placard is transported for subsequent microscopic analysis. Upon release from the placard, the slide is ready for microscopic viewing. The placard may include indicia for desired alignment of the test tapes on the slide. The test tape may include an adhesive free tab for enhancing handling. In a preferred embodiment, a plurality of test tapes are included within the test kit and the microscopic slide is configured to retain all of the test tapes for viewing multiple samples.

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Once Amended) A test kit for aid in identifying one or more ~~an~~-environmental samples comprising:

at least one test tape having an adhesive surface with a releasable adhesive thereon ~~one~~ side thereof;

a window area integral within said test tape, ~~comprising a material for viewing therethrough, said window adapted to collect an at least one environmental sample upon pressing said adhesive surface of said window against the sample~~ wherein said test tape is transparent for viewing only through said window area;

wherein said test tape is adapted to collect at least one environmental sample within said window area upon pressing said adhesive surface against an environmental surface, said environmental sample being suspected of containing mold;

a slide provided separate from said test tape for affixation of said test tape after said environmental with sample is collected thereon, and said affixation trapping said at least one environmental sample between said slide and said tape and within said window, said adapted for combination with a microscope, whereupon in said test tape is adapted to affix said environmental sample between said slide and said test tape within said window area, and a view of said window area through said microscope after said test tape is affixed to said slide enlarges said at least one environmental sample trapped within said window area for analysis thereof.

2. (Original) The kit as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a placard having means for releasable storage of said slide thereon.

3. (Once Amended) The kit as claimed in claim 1 wherein said window area presents a grid therein, said grid defining a plurality of zones within said window area for location of said at least one ~~trapped~~ environmental sample within one of said zones.

4. (Once Amended) The kit as claimed in claim 1 wherein said test tape further comprises a tab at one end thereof, said tab enhancing a user manipulation of said test tape.

5. (Once Amended) The kit as claimed in claim 4 wherein said ~~adhesive window area~~ is displaced from said tab to further enhance said manipulation.

6. (Once Amended) The kit as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a specific area means on said test tape for ~~affixing recording~~ information indicative of said at least one environmental sample thereon.

7. (Once Amended) The kit as claimed in claim 2 further comprising a means on said placard for ~~affixing recording~~ information corresponding to ~~at least one said test tape~~ indicative of said ~~at least one of said~~ environmental specimen sample thereon.

8. (Original) The kit as claimed in claim 1 wherein said slide is configured for affixation of a plurality of said test tapes thereon.

9. (Once Amended) The kit as claimed in claim 2 wherein said placard is adapted for transport ~~for subsequent combination of said slide thereon.~~

10. (Once Amended) A method for collecting an environmental sample from an environmental ~~on a surface~~ for subsequent analysis, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a test tape having a ~~circumscribed~~ distinct window thereon, and a handling area surrounding said window ~~having a sticky adhesive on one side thereof~~ area;

said window area comprising a transparent material having a releasable sticky adhesive on one side thereof;

said handling area comprising a material that is not transparent and is adapted for recording information thereon;

said test tape being provided on a backing to which said test tape is releasably attached;

removing said test tape from said backing;

circumscribing said window area about an environmental sample on an environmental surface, said environmental sample being suspected of comprising environmental mold;

pressing the adhesive side at least of said window area against the environmental surface for adhesion of the environmental sample thereto;

displacing said window area from said environmental surface with the environmental sample ~~affixed~~ adhered to said test tape within the window area;

releasably attaching said test tape to a ~~seethrough~~ microscope slide;

~~transporting said slide to a microscope~~;

~~preparing said slide for a microscopic analysis;~~

~~directing said microscope to said window; and~~

~~viewing the specimen within said window through said microscope for analysis.~~

11. (Once Amended) The method as claimed in claim 10 wherein said providing step comprises providing a plurality of test tapes for multiple environmental samples and said releasably attaching step comprises attaching said plurality of ~~are provided for repeated samples, said test tapes to said slide.~~

12. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 10 further comprising the steps of recording on said test tape information indicative of the environmental sample.

13. (Once Amended) The method as claimed in claim 12 wherein said information includes a the location of from which the environmental sample was collected.

14. (Once Amended) The method as claimed in claim 13 ~~wherein said information includes a location of the environmental sample was found~~ further comprising the step of releasably securing said slide to a placard.

15. (Once Amended) The method as claimed in claim 10 further comprising the steps of providing a grid in said window area, said grid presenting a plurality of zones for location of the ~~specimen~~ environmental sample within said window area.

16. (Once Amended) The method as claimed in claim 10 ~~14~~ further comprising the step of releasably attaching said slide to a placard prior to said transporting step wherein said placard is adapted for recording information about the environmental surface from which the environmental sample was collected.

17. (Once Amended) The method as claimed in claim 16 further comprising the step of recording said information on said placard ~~information indicative of the environmental sample.~~

18. (Once Amended) The method as claimed in claim 17 wherein said information includes ~~a~~ the location of from which the environmental sample was collected.

19. (Once Amended) A kit for collecting ~~an~~ one or more environmental samples from one or more ~~a~~ selected environmental surfaces comprising:

at least one test tape having an adhesive surface with a releasable adhesive thereon;

~~a window incorporated in said~~ test tape, comprising said ~~a~~ window area presenting a transparent area on the test tape for retaining perimeter for circumscribing an environmental sample;

said test tape comprising an area adjacent ~~upon pressing said window area against the~~ sample that is not transparent;

said test tape releasably attached to a backing having instructions for use of said test tape;

~~means on said window for affixing the sample thereto upon said pressing~~;

a slide adapted for affixation of said test tape after collection of the environmental ~~with~~ sample thereon such that said environmental sample is positioned between said slide and said test tape; wherein said window area defines a viewing zone for the environmental sample ~~positioned between said slide and said tape~~; and

a placard for releasable affixation of said slide thereto;

~~means on said placard for a proper alignment of said test tape on said slide, a release of said slide from said placard presenting a slide for subsequent viewing through a microscope.~~

20. (Once Amended) The kit as claimed in claim 19 wherein said placard is adapted for transport to a displaced location for ~~said~~ microscopic viewing.

Please add the following new claims:

21. (New) The kit as claimed in claim 19 wherein said placard has at least one slot for insertion of a corner of said slide.
22. (New) The kit as claimed in claim 19 further comprising a means on said placard for proper alignment of said test tape on said slide.
23. (New) The kit as claimed in claim 19 wherein said placard has alignment indicia for aligning said slide with said placard.
24. (New) The kit as claimed in claim 19 wherein said placard has a preprinted area adjacent to said test tape for recording information indicative of said environmental sample thereon.
25. (New) The kit as claimed in claim 19 wherein said area adjacent said window area comprises a preprinted area for recording information thereon.
26. (New) The kit as claimed in claim 19 wherein said test tape has a curved edge.
27. (New) The kit as claimed in claim 19 wherein said test tape has an adhesive free tab for easier handling.
28. (New) The kit as claimed in claim 19 wherein said window area is displaced from an end of said tape such that said end may be more easily handled by the user without contaminating the environmental sample.
29. (New) The method as claimed in claim 11 wherein said releasably attaching step comprises releasably attaching said plurality of test tapes to said slide such that each said window area of each said test tape is aligned in a row for successive examination using a microscope.
30. (New) The kit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said test tape is releasably attached to a backing.

31. (New) The kit as claimed in claim 30, wherein said backing includes instructions for use of said test tape.

32. (New) A test tape for aid in collecting and identifying one or more environmental samples comprising:

a window area integral within the test tape having an adhesive surface with a releasable adhesive thereon and wherein said window area is transparent;

a handling area adjacent said window area, wherein said handling area is non-transparent;
and

a handling end of said test tape comprising an adhesive-free tab for easier handling, wherein said window area is displaced from said handling end.

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 remain pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9-11, and 13-20 have been amended. New claims 21-32 have been added. A check in the amount of \$150.00 is also being submitted herewith to cover the additional claim fees.

A. Section 112

In paragraphs 1-2, the Examiner rejected claim 9 under 35 U.C.S. § 112 ¶ 2 as being indefinite with respect to the language "for subsequent combination of said slide thereon." Applicant has amended claim 9 to delete the language at issue. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under Section 112.

B. Section 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 10, 12-14, and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Borkowski, U.S. Patent No., 6,447,463 (the "Borkowski Patent"). As